

**FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
held at the Laurence Pettingill Hall, Ellis Elementary School
432 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044
15 March 2008 Minutes**

Call to Order: Fremont School District Moderator Mike Rydeen called the Meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Chief of Police Neil Janvrin lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of the Board, Panel, and Guests: Principal Kelli Killen, Elementary School Principal Dawn Lewis, Financial Administrator Ann Marie Scribner, SAU 83 Superintendent Norman Tanguay,, Member Deb Gunther, Member Marion Guidiboni, Vice Chairman Peg Pinkham, School Board Chairman Jeff Rowell, School Board District Clerk Kathi Picone, SAU 83 Legal Council Dean Eggert. Member Christine Kenneway was absent.

Several announcements were made, and instruction was given on voter cards. Moderator Rydeen explained the use of the microphone. All questions are to be made to The Moderator.

Moderator Rydeen asked the body if they wanted to limit speakers to Fremont residents or that all attendees be allowed to speak? After several minutes of discussion by both Fremont Citizens, The Board and Legal Counsel, the original question was restated. The body indicated by Majority that non-Fremont residents be allowed to speak during the meeting.

Moderator Rydeen indicated that he received a document indicating that Articles 1 and 2 be by ballot vote. The correct number of signatures was approved by Legal Counsel. Articles 1 and 2 will be conducted by ballot vote. The second document requested that a hand count be conducted for Articles 2, 3 and 4. The secret ballot trumps the hand count request for Article 2 so Article 2 will still be conducted by secret ballot. Articles 3 and 4 will be conducted by hand vote.

Moderator Rydeen stated the results of the voting for School District positions. The Charter Article passed.

*To the Inhabitants of the School District
in the Town of Fremont, New Hampshire
qualified to vote in District affairs:*

You are hereby notified to meet at the Laurence Pettengill Hall, Ellis School, in said District on the 15th day of March 2008, at nine o'clock in the morning to act upon the following subjects and to hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees or officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Fremont School Board and the AFT which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ESTIMATED INCREASE</u>
2007-2008	\$117,938
2008-2009	\$ 61,247
2009-2010	\$ 78,703

***(Not Recommended By the Fremont Budget Committee)
(Recommended by the Fremont School Board)***

Chairman Rowell moved the article. Member Guidiboni seconded the motion.

Member Guidiboni made an amendment to Article 1 stating the years indicated were incorrect. The years should read: 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011. Chairman Rowell moved and Vice Chairman Pinkham seconded the amendment. Member Guidiboni stated it was a typographical error.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called for a vote.

The Amendment to Article 1 passed by Majority vote with a hand count.

Citizen Keith Stanton of the Fremont Budget Committee. The Budget Committee has 3 main objections to this contract. 1. Insurance cost 2. Side bar B – inclusion of food service employees, 3. unaffordable as it would cause a 40% increase in expenditures.

Citizen Wendy Downing stated that the union looked at the least expensive insurance that the para educator will need to have worked for the school district for at least 5 years, and several other reasons.

Member Guidoboni addressed The Body. She stated that the Government Center Health Trust offers discounts in insurance for school districts. Matthew Thornton is the least expensive. The language in the contract for food service workers should be kept in place in case the school district reverts back to an in-house lunch program. The contract includes 24 people; 3 custodians, 3 secretaries, and 17.5 para educators. No programs will be eliminated due to the contract.

Member Guidoboni went on to discuss the increase in standards by NCLB and IDEA. The Para educators need to be certified and provide a vital service in the classroom. She discussed the extensive details of the contract including that the health insurance would be single coverage only. Uncertified Para educators would receive \$1.00 less per hour.

The increase over a 3 period in the budget would be: 21.4 % - .28, 11.2% -.15 and 14.3% -.19 respectively.

Citizen Abby stated her full support for Article 1 stating that other towns have much higher pay scales.

Citizen Roland in the town budget, 4/5 goes towards the school. He also asked why the collective bargaining is done in secret.

Citizen Pelgren stated there needs to be accountability.

Member Guidiboni stated the in negotiations much of the information is confidential and can have a highly charged atmosphere. As far as the accountability issue, school test scores have been steadily rising.

Citizen Bearse, a Budget Committee Member, stated that copies of the contract should have been available before the meeting. That there needs to be availability of information.

Police Chief Neil Janvrin called the question and a Fremont Citizen seconded.

There being no further discussion Moderator Rydeen took a vote to end discussion.

Passed by Majority hand vote.

Vice Chairman Pinkham made a motion to continue the meeting while voting takes place. The motion was seconded by a Fremont Citizen.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

There being no discussion, Citizen Thomas made a motion to recess meeting for 15 minutes and was seconded by Citizen Blades.

Moderator Rydeen took a vote to continue the meeting while voting takes place.

Passed by Majority hand vote.

A Fremont Citizen made a motion to skip Article 2 until the results of Article 1 were determined. Motion seconded by Chairman Rowell.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen took a vote to skip Article 2 until the results of Article 1 were determined.

Passed by Majority hand vote.

Recess for 15 minutes and Polls open for 1 hour.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,200.00 to add an additional high school late bus route to the existing high school transportation contract.

***(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee)
(Recommended by the Fremont School Board)***

Member Gunther made a motion to move the article. Member Guidiboni seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated that the district could function without a late bus.

Citizen Ackers also opposed the late bus.

Citizen Zukas stated that a bus was needed so that Fremont students can participate in after school activities and many were unable to because there is no late bus. Sanborn is a regional school and both Kingston and Newton provide late buses for their students.

Chairman Rowell stated the The Board decided to make this issue a warrant article so that the citizens could decide. The cost will be .04 per thousand.

Citizen Copp stated she supports the late bus for Fremont students as did Citizens Miller, Holmes and Blades.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated the cost would be \$75.00 per student.

Vice Chairman Pinkham asked how he came up with this figure.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated \$16,200 divided by approximately 200 students equals about \$75.00 per student.

The question was called by a Fremont Citizen.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called for a vote on Article 3.

Article 3 passed by Majority hand vote.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the school district accept the provisions of RSA 198:20-b providing that any school district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the school board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required.)

The Article was moved by Vice Chairman Pinkham. The motion was seconded by Chairman Rowell.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated that the warrant article is not legal.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that every time the school district received unanticipated funds there would need to be a public hearing.

Attorney Eggert read for The Body RSA 198:20-b. This would allow the school district to use any unanticipated monies without needing to hold a public hearing.

Citizen Stanton requested a point of order for Article 3.

Moderator Rydeen stated that they would return to Article 3 once they completed Article 4.

Citizen Breeda Royer stated that her husband tried to vote and that he was told the voting was completed. She would like it reiterated to the public that the polls are open for 1 hour.

Moderator Rydeen indicated that the polls are open until 11:15 AM.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated that with any unanticipated monies there come costs. If grant money is received for a position for a teacher and those monies are used up, there is now the cost of keeping the teacher at the school. There are costs for keeping equipment maintained and the school district will incur additional costs because of that.

Vice Chairman Pinkham did not agree. She stated that any extra monies the district had at the end of the year were returned to the town.

Chairman Rowell read a document indicating if unanticipated funds of \$5,000 or more, it gives the district the ability to receive these funds.

A Fremont Citizen requested the amount of monies returned to the town over the last 7 years.

Citizen Kohlhofer, a Budget Committee member read the amounts returned over the last 3 years. All 3 years, over \$200,000 each year was returned.

Citizen Delahunty stated there is now a line item for lap tops. The lap tops will need to be maintained and replaced and there is a cost in that giving credence to Citizen Kohlhofer's statement of increased costs.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that yes, there is a cost, but they have a 3 year plan in place to cycle out the old laptops for new lap tops.

Business Administrator Gilligan stated that the district received Federal funds to purchase some lap tops. There is a plan in place for the cost of maintaining and replacing these items. Also, as far as a grant related teacher employment, Gilligan stated that if the money is not there to keep a teacher employed through grant funding, they are not given a contract at the end of the year.

Citizen Nygren explained to The Body that if someone retires and the new hire isn't as expensive, they can spend the left over money any way they want.

Business Administrator Gilligan stated that a grant funded teacher can be requested as a teacher for the school and added and the budget committee has approved it along with the people.

Citizen Larson, of the Energy Committee, stated that in the future they were hoping to receive grant money that they could donate to the school, and would like the ability to do that.

Citizens Ouellette, Giarardi, and Keane asked for clarification on some of the language in the article.

Citizens Blades reiterated the need for grants because they benefit the students.

Vice Chairman indicated that unanticipated monies would require a special meeting to be held and approval from the state. Special meetings are very expensive.

Chairman Rowell stated that these unanticipated monies would be in the amount of \$5,000 or more.

Citizen Ouellette called the question. Citizen Blades seconded.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen asked for a vote.

A hand count was taken. 88 ayes, 9 nays

Article 4 passed with Majority hand vote.

Polls closed at 11:15 AM.

Point of order by Citizen Stanton addressed on Article 3. Hand count required.

Moderator Rydeen reread Article 3. 69 ayes, 32 nays

Article 3 passed with Majority hand vote.

Moderator Rydeen reads the results of voting for Article 1. 58 ayes, 59 nays

Article 1 does not pass.

Chairman Rowell moved Article 2. Vice Chairman Pinkham seconded.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Fremont School District, if Article 1 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 1 cost items only.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Kohlhofer requested no special meeting. Another meeting will cost money.

Citizen Abney asked if the vote accurate since people were told the polls were closed.

Citizen Downing requested a recount.

Discussion between Board, Moderator, and Legal Counsel ensued. The Body was then read the steps for a recount.

Moderator Rydeen asked how many times the votes for Article 1 were counted.

Citizen Holmes stated 3 times.

Citizen Downing withdrew her request for a recount.

Citizen Holmes stated that the only person who was told the polls were closed was Mr. Royer.

Citizens Bearse requested to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 1.

Moderator Rydeen stated that we would return to Article 1 once we completed Article 2.

Citizen Dreyer stated that Article 2 simply means we take another stab at renegotiating the contract.

Citizen Kohlhofer clarified that the para educators would be able to present a contract for vote next year.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that the para educators would go back to the old contract since the new contract did not pass.

Several Fremont Citizens asked questions concerning contract negotiations, calling another meeting, and the time frame involved with this.

Citizen Copp called for the question. A Fremont Citizen seconded the motion.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated the polls would be open for 1 hour and that there would be a recess for 15 minutes upon which the meeting would continue.

Moderator Rydeen continued meeting after 15 minutes

Citizen Bearse called a point of order. Citizen Bearse made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 1. Seconded by Fremont Citizen.

Vice Chairman Pinkham requested an amendment to Citizen Bearse's motion. She made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 1, 3, and 4 since all of these articles have been voted on.

Chairman Rowell seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Bearse clarified what The Body was voting on.

Fremont Citizen called for the vote. Fremont citizen seconded.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen asked for vote on the amended motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 1, 2, and 3.

Amendment Passed with Majority vote.

Citizen Rydeen clarified that restricting reconsideration was for 7 days after the vote.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee's recommended amount of \$9,926,076 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. The Fremont School Board recommends \$10,

134,931. *This article does not include appropriations voted on in other warrant articles. (Majority Vote Required).*

		<u>Budget Committee Recommended</u>	<u>School Board Recommended</u>
1100	Regular Education	\$4,887,447	\$4,995,307
1200	Special Education	1,536,055	1,536,055
1270	Gifted and Talented	73,869	94,848
1300	Vocational Education	0	0
1400	Other Programs	56,234	56,234
2110	Attendance	1	1
2120	Guidance	131,414	131,414
2130	Health	69,159	69,159
2140	Psychological	89,448	89,448
2150	Speech & Audiology	99,215	99,215
2160	Physical, Occupational & Vision	130,625	130,625
2210	Improvement of Instruction	57,680	57,680
2220	Educational Media	130,201	130,201
2310	School Board	61,915	61,915
2320	Offices of Superintendent	249,839	249,839
2330	Special Ed. Administration	154,390	154,390
2400	School Administration	287,986	287,986
2600	Operation of Plant	393,534	393,534
2700	Student Transportation	515,615	515,615
2900	Support Benefits	289,340	289,340
5100	Debt Service	354,775	354,775
3100	Food Service	149,256	149,256
5300	Federal Grant	208,078	208,078
<u>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>		<u>\$9,926,076</u>	<u>\$10,134,931</u>

(\$9,926,076 Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee)
(\$10,134,931 Recommended by the Fremont School Board)

Vice Chairmen made a motion to move Article 5. Member Guidiboni seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Member Deb Gunther requested an amendment to Article 5. She would like the Fremont School Board's budget of 10,134,931 to be discussed first. Citizen Ficker made a motion to amend Article 5. Vice Chairman Pinkham seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Vice Chairman Pinkham clarified the amendment to Article 5.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen asked for a vote on the amendment to Article 5.

Hand Count: Ayes – 69, Nays 16

Amendment passed by Majority vote.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion on the amended Article 5.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated the Budget Committee's reasons for reducing the proposed School Board budget. The difference in the amount equals \$208,861 less than what the School Board proposes. He also stated that the Sanborn School District budget did not pass and they are on a default budget which will reduce the amount we will be paying in tuition to the district.

Vice Chairman Pinkham, Budget Committee Representative for the School Board, stated that the School Board is looking to legal counsel on the question of how the tuition to Sanborn Regional High School is calculated. As we are waiting for a legal opinion, to reduce the tuition amount by \$86,000, leaves the possibility that if Sanborn is correct in how they are calculating tuition, we will be short by \$86,000. There is an increase in the cost for substitute teachers; however, it is being put in the appropriate line item. Last year an estimate for a Gifted and Talented teacher was estimated when in actuality the cost is higher for the position. Also, the amount of \$48,752 for a position for a speech teacher was eliminated by the budget committee. By law, speech services must be provided to students whether or not the position is filled. The actual cost last year to contract services for speech were approximately \$90,000.00. We are hoping we can fill the speech position in the future. Vice Chairman Pinkham also discussed other line item decrease proposed by the budget committee.

Citizen Kohlhofer made a motion to amend the School Board District Budget Line Item 5122 from \$41,105 to \$20,000. Fremont Citizen seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion on the proposed amendment.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated that the amount requested is excessive.

Vice Chairman Pinkham reiterated that there are sick days, professional days, long-term leave, and maternity leaves that need to be taken into account. The School District is required to provide substitutes even if the funds are not there.

Citizen Bassett asked if the amount requested by the School District Budget is a projection or based on actual history. Also, if the expenditure for substitutes is less than is what is needed for the year, where does the money go?

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that the amount requested is based on actual history and the money would return to the town if it was not used for substitutes.

Moderator Rydeen stated that polls are closed.

Citizen Bearse stated that performance ratios should be used in comparison with other districts. Also, that more information needs to be supplied to the Budget Committee.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that she offered to have additional meetings for the budget questions.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated that the committee did not have the time for additional meetings.

Citizen Giardi asked if the money needed is taken out of other sources.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that if they are over extended in one area of the budget the money must come from another area in the budget because they must adhere to contracts.

Citizen Keane stated at the public hearing the School Board and Budget Committee agreed on the same figures. What happened?

Moderator Rydeen stated the results of Article 2. Ayes – 54, Nays – 60.

Article 2 does not pass.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that the Budget Committee or School Board can change the amounts proposed at any time.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated that if there is a surplus in the budget, the School Board does not have to return it.

Citizen Bearse stated that the SAU isn't running as a business and needs to use comparison ratios with other towns.

Vice Chairman Pinkham indicated one town that is often used in comparison is Chester. SAU 83 is actually running cheaper than Chester and Alton. We are constantly comparing how we are doing against other towns.

Citizen Ouellette stated that \$20,000 is insufficient in covering the cost for substitute teachers.

Citizen Kohlhofer moved the question. Fremont Citizen seconded.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called a vote on the amendment.

Amendment to Article 5 did not pass.

Citizen Kohlhofer made a motion to amend Line Item 5561 by \$86,255 for a new budget total of \$2,743,604.

Fremont citizen seconded motion.

Moderator Rydeen called for discussion.

Citizen Kohlhofer stated that Sanborn Regional School District is on a default budget thus mathematically reducing the amount Fremont will pay for tuition.

Vice Chairman Pinkham stated that Fremont is contractually obligated to the Sanborn District. If the tuition amount is not reduced, we will be short \$86,255.

Citizen Blades called the question.

Citizen Zukas seconded.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called a vote on the amendment.

Amendment to Article 5 did not pass.

Moderator Rydeen stated the results of Article 5. (10,134,931) Ayes – 52, Nays 55.

Article 5 does not pass.

Citizen Richard asked for clarification on the vote.

Citizen Royer suggested reducing Article 5 by \$1 and voting on it with a hand vote.

After brief discussion, Citizen Royer rescinded her request.

Citizen Scribner made a motion to amend the Budget Committee amount to add in the amount of \$86,255 for a total of \$10,012,328.

Fremont Citizen seconded motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

Citizen Kohlhofer started discussion.

Point of order by Citizen Rydeen stating that the information Citizen Kohlhofer was stating had already been stated.

Business Administrator Scribner discussed cost per pupil.

Citizen DeCroke asked why the tuition isn't going to be lower if Sanborn School District is on a default budget.

Business Administrator Scribner stated that to estimate our savings as being \$300,000 is a guess. The tuition could be less, but we can't guess the amount.

Citizen Dreyer stated that the Sanborn School District can manipulate the budget so that the tuition cost doesn't change and they reduce other cost items at their discretion.

Moderator Rydeen restated the amendment indicating the Budget Committee figure of \$9,926,760 plus \$86,255 for a total of \$10,012,328.

Citizen Blades called the question.

Fremont Citizen seconded.

Citizen Holland requested a hand count on the amendment.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called for a vote on the amendment.

Amendment to Article 5 passed by Majority hand vote.

Moderator Rydeen stated that the amended Article 5 would be voted with secret ballot. However, secret ballot can be rescinded by the 5 people who originally requested this type of voting.

Secret Ballot was not rescinded by first citizen on the secret ballot request.

Moderator Rydeen stated that the polls are open for 1 hour.

Citizen Kohlhofer requested restricting reconsideration on Article 2.

Citizen Scribner seconded.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called for a vote on the restricting reconsideration of Article 2.

Restricting reconsideration on Article 2 passed with Majority vote.

After 1 hour, Moderator Rydeen stated the results for amended Article 5. Ayes – 60, Nays – 25..

Amended Article 5 passes.

Vice Chairman Pinkham requested restricting reconsideration on Article 5.

Chairman Rowell seconded.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

With there being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen called for a vote on restricting reconsideration of Article 5.

Restricting reconsideration on Article 5 passed with Majority vote.

Article 6. To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

Vice Chairman Pinkham motioned to table Article 6. Chairman Rowell seconded the motion.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

With there being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated all those in favor of tabling Article 6 indicate by raising your hand. All those not in favor, indicate by raising your hand.

Motion to table Article 6 passed by Majority.

Citizen Rydeen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Rowell seconded.

Moderator Rydeen asked for discussion.

With there being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated all those in favor of adjourning the meeting; indicate by raising your hand. All those not in favor, indicate by raising your hand.

With no further transactions to come before the voting body, Moderator Rydeen adjourned the Fremont School District Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

**Kathi Picone
Fremont School District Board Clerk**